

From: CityWatch
To: Kent Smith
Subject: CityWatch for Friday, July 10, 2015
Date: Thursday, July 09, 2015 10:02:38 PM

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INFLUENCE PEDDLER



Why LA County Supervisor Mike Antonovich Hired a Phony 'Research' Firm to Kill the Minimum Wage Plan

Peter Dreier

WHO WE ARE- Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich (photo above) has hired a corporate-sponsored lobby group and PR firm to conduct a so-called "study" of the minimum wage. Under Antonovich's orders, the County is going to pay \$55,000 to the Washington, D.C.-based Employment Policies Institute (EPI) to help him undermine a plan to create a...



Beyond Bigotry: Court Revokes NFL 'Redskins' Trademark

Lauren McCauley

THE R-WORD IS HURTFUL-In what is being reported as the biggest legal blow thus far against the contentious Washington D.C. football enterprise, a federal court on Wednesday ruled that the name "Redskins" is disparaging to Native Americans and thus its trademark registration must be revoked. In the decision (pdf), Judge Gerald Bruce Lee of the...



Immigrant Sanctuary Must Include a Cause for Denial

Paul Hatfield

PERSPECTIVE-Would persons applying for citizenship in the United States through the established legal process be denied if they had committed felonies? Murder, for certain, would be automatic cause for denial. Aggravated felonies, too, would very likely result in denial. One should note that some misdemeanors at the state level could qualify as...



Does DWP Deserve a 30% Rate Increase?

Jack Humphreville

LA WATCHDOG-Our Department of Water and Power is proposing a 25% to 30% increase in our utility rates over the next five years. This \$1.2 to \$1.4 billion in new revenues will be used to replace aging infrastructure, improve the reliability of service, expand our local water supply, transform our sources of power, improve customer service, and...



The Anti-Vaccination Movement In California is In Whimper Mode

Bob Gelfand

GELFAND'S WORLD-Last week, Governor Brown signed the bill that makes it mandatory for children to be fully vaccinated in order to enter the public schools. Senate Bill 277 (SB277) removed the option that parents used to have, which was to opt out if they had a personal or religious objection to vaccination. We might very well have expected a...



Homelessness Is Not Inevitable

Paul Bisceglia

THE CITY-Ten years ago, Los Angeles Times columnist Steve Lopez attended what he refers to as a "dog and pony show" on Los Angeles' Skid Row. Its topic: the plan to end homelessness. "And yet," Lopez told a standing-room-only crowd at a "Thinking LA" event co-presented by UCLA and Zócalo at the Plaza on Olvera Street, "homelessness is still going..."



New LA Bus Plan: Less is More

Jarrett Walker

SMART TRANSIT-The main Los Angeles County transit agency, Metro, has released a set of "Blue Ribbon Committee" recommendations that show the agency trying to find its way toward higher ridership with the limits of its operating budget. These are not yet Metro's recommendations to the public; the agency is still thinking about them, but they are...



The 7 Year Rule: Developing LA's Waterfront ... Global vs. Local Jobs

James Preston Allen

AT LENGTH-Ask anyone who has ever had to deal with the City of Los Angeles, they will tell you that it takes "forever" to get anything done. Be it building and safety, the Department of Transportation or the Port of Los Angeles. And it doesn't matter the size of the project, either. I still remember how it took seven years from concept to...



May It Displease the Court: Race and Justice Sotomayor

ProPublica Q&A

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLITICS - The Supreme Court last week announced that it would again hear Fisher v. Texas, an affirmative action case in which a white woman claims she was denied admission to the University of Texas because of her race. In 2013, the court ruled narrowly on the case, requiring the federal appeals court that had ruled against the...



Plus, these CityWatch stories:

Greece and the US: Getting Others to Pay Your Bills ... Not Courageous, Not Democratic

Ken Alpern

California Homebuyers Confront the China Syndrome

Joel Kotkin

Banned in California! It's the Law Now: No Lead Ammunition for Hunters

Matt Drange

Targeted Teachers Target Corruption

Leonard Isenberg

A Complicated Month for Pride

Sean Thomas-Breitfeld

Yes, Cosby Can Be Prosecuted

Earl Ofari Hutchinson

Los Angeles: Vietnam War Veterans Have Found the Enemy

Robert Rosebrock

The Very Real Benefits of Camping

Lindsay Holmes

5 Ways to Kill Weeds ... Naturally!

Rickie Avrutin

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